

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, April 10, 2021

(USPS-6)

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Charity League to hold first ever Spring Bargain Fair



Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County Inc. will hold a Spring Bargain Fair on April 10 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 242 Franklin St., Martinsville. Kara Gilley, president, said the spring sale will be similar to the annual fall event, and includes sporting goods, furniture, books, home goods, holiday items, children's toys, and clothes for the whole family at affordable prices.

Taylor Boyd
Contributing writer

The Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County will hold its first ever Spring Bargain Fair on April 10 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 242 Franklin St., Martinsville.

Kara Gilley, president of league, said the event is "like a big, indoor yard sale," and will be like the annual Bargain Fair held by the group in October.

Gilley said the organization has been holding the fairs since 1969, but "this is our first spring sale ever. This will be our 53rd Bargain Fair, but it is our 52nd year of doing it. We'll do another one in October as well."

Proceeds from the event benefit youngsters in Martinsville and Henry County, she said.

"Because of COVID, we have not been able to do our regular gala that we do each year in person. So, we were trying to find a different way we could fundraise and still be protecting ourselves against COVID and

protecting our members, and also the community," she said, adding several other non-profit agencies also are trying to find creative and safe ways to fundraise during the pandemic.

The Charity League had a lot of items at its warehouse and realized there were enough to hold a sale, she said.

"If we waited until October, we would have more than just this. So, we thought, 'why don't we do some more public drop-offs and see if anyone wants to donate,' because a lot of people are cleaning out their houses and are sitting at home and going through stuff."

"We had a lot of public drop offs and the community came and donated, and we ended up with a full warehouse so we were like, we could have another sale," Gilley said.

Generally, it takes a lot of work to prepare for the annual fall fair, but the group decided to

See Bargain Fair, page 2

Vaccine eligibility expands to all adults by April 18

Vaccine eligibility expands to all adults by April 18

All individuals in Virginia age 16 and older will be eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine starting on Sunday, April 18, Gov. Ralph Northam said when announcing the date that is ahead of the May 1 nationwide goal set by President Joe Biden.

This news comes as nearly every Virginian in the highest risk groups who has pre-registered for a vaccination appointment has received one, and those still on the pre-registration list will receive appointment invitations within the next two weeks.

"The COVID-19 vaccine is the light at the end of the tunnel—and that light is getting brighter every day as more and more Virginians get vaccinated," said Northam. "We continue to work with diverse providers and community partners across the Commonwealth to distribute vaccines in a fair and equitable way and ensure those at the highest risk are vaccinated first. Expanding vaccine eligi-

bility to all adults marks an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to put this pandemic behind us, and I thank all of the public health staff, health care workers, vaccinators, and volunteers who have helped make this possible."

With over 3.7 million doses of vaccine administered so far in Virginia, more than one in three adults have received at least one dose and one in five Virginians are fully vaccinated. Virginia is administering vaccine doses as quickly as they are provided by the federal government. Because the Commonwealth has followed guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prioritize those at highest risk, and because Virginia is a large and diverse state with many essential workers, many out-of-state commuters, and a high percentage of the population that wants to be vaccinated, it has taken some time to open eligibility to the general public.

In addition to adopting phased eligibility

See Eligibility, page 2

Annual BBQ competition set for April 17

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The 10th annual Pig Cookin' Competition will get underway at the Spencer-Penn Centre on April 16-17.

Susan Sabin, executive director at the Centre, estimated 300 pounds of barbeque will be prepared by the 14 cooks lined up for this year's event.

"Usually, we have 10-12 so we've increased in number and we actually have a waiting list of cooks that wanted to compete," she said. "They will start cooking Friday night and they will cook through the night. Judging will happen Saturday morning. All of

See BBQ, page 3



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SPENCER-PENN CENTRE

The Pig Cookin' Competition at the Spencer-Penn Centre in 2018.

Race week kicks off with appreciation event for healthcare workers



Staff at Sovah Health-Martinsville cheer on a fleet of NASCAR haulers on April 6.

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The Martinsville Speedway, NASCAR and Blue-Emu kicked off race week with a drive-by parade at Sovah Health-Martinsville to show appreciation for the contributions frontline healthcare workers made in battling the coronavirus.

A convoy of NASCAR haulers was led by the Martinsville Ford Mustang Pace Car around the hospital before stopping for a brief press conference at the entrance.

"We are grateful to join with

See Race Week, page 4

Group support center for opioid users opens in Martinsville

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

Following years of rising opioid use in the area, a new treatment center is opening on 294 W. Commonwealth Boulevard in Martinsville to focus on peer recovery and medication assistance treatment.

The center will operate as a branch of Groups Recover Together (Groups) which is a community of physicians, counselors and recovering opioid users dedicated to guiding struggling opioid users to recovery.

The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the center on April 2 to commemorate the grand opening.

Ashleigh Bowman, regional director of Groups Recover Together in Virginia, said Groups takes a casual, non-traditional path to recovery.

"We don't expect people to come any certain way. Come as you are, we will meet you here," she said. "We will help you establish the goals of where



A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Groups Recovery Together on 294 W. Commonwealth Blvd., in Martinsville, Va. From left to right: Travis Hodge, human resources director for the City of Martinsville; and Groups representatives Lisa East, Heather Harris and Ashleigh Bowman.

you want to go and work to equip you with the tools necessary to successfully navigate recovery."

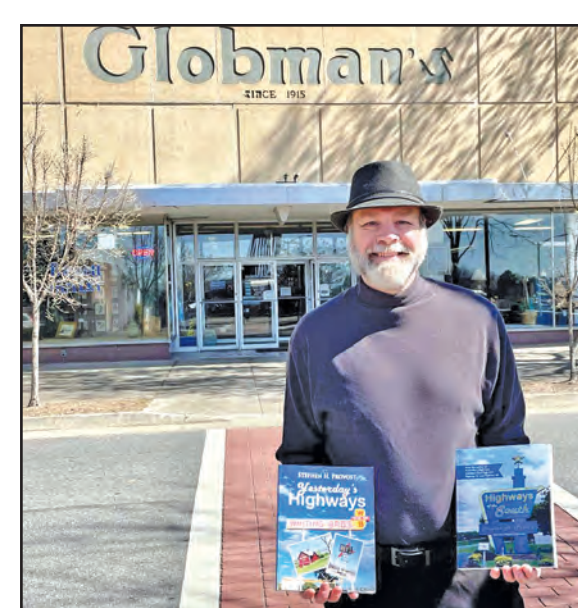
Bowman said she believes in the program because she has personally ex-

perienced the results.

"I didn't realize it had become a problem until seven years later when I

See Support, page 5

Author releases two books featuring historic Martinsville



Stephen Provost in front of the former Globman's in Martinsville.

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

A local author has written two new books focusing on the evolution of retail and highways throughout the country.

In his books "The Great American Shopping Experience" and "Highways of the South," Martinsville-based author Stephen Provost highlights the deep roots Martinsville-Henry County has in shaping popular culture.

The Great American Shopping Experience

"I've written a lot about nostalgia and 20th century Americana. I was born in

1963 so I grew up in the time where shopping malls

See Books, page 8

Visit
<http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com>
for updates



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, April 10

The Martinsville Speedway is hosting the 2021 Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500. Fans can view the full 2021 NASCAR Cup Series schedule and purchase tickets at nascar.com/tickets. For more information, call (276) 956-7200.

Saturday, April 17

Chatmoss Country Club is hosting the 11th Annual Walker Shank Memorial Golf Tournament beginning at 1 p.m. Walker Shank was an avid golfer throughout his life and competed on the Martinsville High School varsity team for four years. All teams will tee off at 1 p.m. (shotgun start). The tournament will feature a Captain's Choice format with 4-person teams. The fee to play is \$75 per player. A four-man team costs \$300 per team without mulligans, or \$340 per team to get two mulligans per player. All golfers will be eligible for two closest to the pin prizes, a long-drive prize and a closest-to-the-line prize. Each golfer will receive a boxed lunch, available as early as noon. To register, visit <https://roosterwalk.com/golf/>.

The Spencer-Penn Centre will be hosting the 10th Annual Pig Cookin' Competition with barbeque available for pre-order. Tubs are \$8. Pig Party Bingo tickets are also being sold for \$20. The raffle winner will receive \$500. For more information, call (276) 957-5757.

Saturday, April 24

Sen. Mark Warner will host his annual Academy Day from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This is a virtual event that will be hosted on Accelevents. The event will offer students, their parents or guardians, and school counselors a comprehensive overview of the United States service academies and their admission processes. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from officials from the five federal service academies, as well as representatives from the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board, the University of Virginia ROTC programs, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the Virginia Military Institute, and the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin University. Representatives from Virginia congressional offices will also share information about the application procedures for congressional nominations. Information on the nomination process is available at www.warner.senate.gov. You

may email academy_noms@warner.senate.gov with any questions about the event.

Piedmont Arts is holding a Recycled Art Family Day in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden beginning at 11 a.m. The event is sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust in celebration of Earth Day. Create bird feeders using recycled materials and enjoy story time with Blue Ridge Regional Library. It's also International Sculpture Day — the perfect day to spend time in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden, surrounded by sculptures created by local and regional artists. Complimentary refreshments provided. You can extend the fun with a self-guided tour of the Piedmont Arts galleries. Kids can follow along with a Discovery Guide and find take-home crafts on the Discovery Board. The museum is open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and admission is free of charge.

ONGOING

Spencer-Penn Centre will be holding a variety of events throughout the month. On Mondays and Thursdays, the centre will have an open computer lab from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The lab can be used on other days on an appointment basis. The centre will be hosting a virtual story time on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., on its Facebook group: Spencer-Penn Storytime Goes Virtual. Access the stories each week and craft. Supplies for each week may be picked up at the centre and will be available on a first come, first serve basis. The Charles & Rose Hylton Library will be open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m., until 8 p.m. Library cards are available for free. The centre will also be having yoga on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., with Sheila. A session is \$8 or \$40 for a series of six sessions. Students are asked to bring their own yoga mat and props if possible. Please RSVP for class due to the limited class size by contacting the centre at (276) 957-5757.

The American Red Cross is holding a number of Blood Drives throughout the month of April. Drives will be held on April 15 from 12-6 p.m., at Martinsville Elks Lodge on 300 Fairy Street; April 16 from 12-5 p.m., at Stone Memorial Christian Church on 3030 Virginia Avenue; April 21 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., at the Elks Lodge; and April 29 from 12-6 p.m. at the lodge. Contact Doug Rubel at (540) 352-9157 for more information. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 1-(800)-733-2767 or by visiting redcrossblood.org.

Eligibility

based on risk, Virginia has focused on equity throughout its vaccination effort by providing targeted resources in multiple languages, scheduling clinics in collaboration with community partners, performing grassroots outreach to drive pre-registration and scheduling, and implementing large, state-run Community Vaccination Centers in areas with vulnerable populations. These efforts will continue when eligibility opens to the general public in Phase 2. Twenty-one of Virginia's 35 local health districts have already started vaccinating essential workers in Phase 1c after providing appointments to everyone eligible in Phases 1a or 1b on the pre-registration list. Beginning April 4, districts that have invited everyone pre-registered in Phase 1c may

invite members of the general public who have pre-registered. Based on the supply projected by the federal government, all local health districts will have enough vaccine to open appointments to the general public by April 18. Those at highest risk will continue to receive priority in the scheduling process. Everyone who lives or works in Virginia may pre-register. They will be notified when they are eligible for vaccination and an appointment is available. To pre-register, visit vaccinate.virginia.gov or call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682, TTY users call 7-1-1). Assistance is available in English, Spanish, and more than 100 other languages. Videoconferencing in American Sign Language is also available at vaccinate.virginia.gov.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
	20			21							22			
			23					24						
25	26	27							28			29	30	31
32											33			
34												35		
36				37							38			
39					40	41			42	43				
				44			45		46					
47	48	49					50					51	52	
53					54						55			56
57					58						59			
60					61						62			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Auricles

5. Sharpening strap

10. Supplemented with difficulty

14. Jaguarundi

15. "7 Year Itch" Tom

16. European defense organization

17. Camber

18. Kittiwake genus

19. 3rd largest French city

20. Used for instant long locks

23. Harangue

24. Grabs

25. Formally withdraw membership

28. Magnitude relations

32. El Dorado High School

33. Porzana carolina

34. Earl Grey or green

35. Dog's tail action

36. Friends (French)

38. Lessen the force of

39. Dermaptera

42. Views

44. From a distance

46. Bleats

47. London Games 2012

53. Let the body fall heavily

54. Collect a large group

55. Aba ____ Honeymoon

57. Give over

58. Glue & plaster painting prep

59. Middle East chieftain

60. Removed ruthlessly

61. AKA bromeosin

62. A dissenting clique

CLUES DOWN

1. Formerly the ECM

2. A native nursemaid in India

3. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid

4. Ironies

5. Peaceable

6. Between

7. Cessation of activity

8. "Little House" actor Merlin

9. Lying in one plane

10. Joins the military

11. Knock out

12. British School

13. Puts on clothing

21. Radioactivity unit

22. Helps little firms

25. Podetiums

26. Fluid accumulation in tissues

27. Backed seat for one

29. From farm state

30. Speak

31. Gurus

37. Deluged

38. In addition to

40. Oldest Yoruba town

41. A place to shelter cars

42. ____ and Deillah

43. Toothpaste tube cover

45. ____ and Juliet

46. Mussel beards

47. Prevents harm to creatures

48. Gorse genus

49. A method of doing

50. Young Scottish woman

51. Latticework lead bar

52. Invests in little enterprises

56. The products of human creativity

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, if you feel like every day is the same thing, then figure out a way to add some spark to the week. Invite friends for an adventure or embrace a new hobby.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, find ways to entertain your family and yourself without breaking the bank. Recreational centers and parks are often free and have many possibilities

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

Gemini, explore more creative pursuits in the days to come. You can find many great ideas and starter kits for arts and crafts projects at your local craft store.

CANCER - June 22/July 22

Don't pressure yourself into taking on more than you can handle, Cancer. Even though you may feel up to the challenge, there's no shame in accepting help.

LEO - July 23/Aug 23

Leo, this week you may find yourself looking inward, which is not necessarily the norm for you. Try connecting with others as it may do you some good.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

A new relationship could start this week, Virgo. Don't try to put on airs; just be yourself and you will likely find that everything will work out for the best.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Financial uncertainty has you rethinking things this week, Libra. Just be sure you are not being pennywise but dollar foolish. Make cuts across the board.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, when another person confides in you, it is up to you to keep his or her secret, unless you believe doing so would be harmful to that person. Maintain your trustwor-

thy reputation.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, don't rush ahead on a project, even if you think you are ready to move forward. Give it a few more days of careful consideration before diving right in.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, as tedious as research can be, it is ultimately necessary if you are planning a big move or a change in your financial situation. Seek professional advice, if necessary.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, some details are still up in the air about a potential trip or adventure. But that doesn't mean you can't get excited about the prospects.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, if you are being too critical of yourself, change your way of thinking. Others do not view you in the same manner.

Stowe among new appointees to VMNH board

Melany Stowe, of Ridgeway, was among those recently appointed by Gov. Ralph Northam to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

In the past, Stowe served in various capacities with the Henry County School division and the New College Institute. She currently is Chief Communications Officer for Orange County Schools.

Bargain Fair

from page 1

“just see if we can just make this happen,” she said, and explained the organization’s warehouse was largely already set up to hold the event.

“Even if we raised \$5,000 to \$6,000, that’s great to us. I mean, on a usual year we raise \$13,000 in one day,” she said.

Pre-COVID-19, she said 300-500 attended the fall event. Last October, the fair attracted an estimated 300 shoppers and raised about \$7,000.

“People get excited about this sale because we usually have some many different kinds of items and we also usually have some name brand items and just really good deals,” she said, and added the April 10 Bargain Fair will include sporting goods, furniture, books, home goods, holiday items, children’s toys, and clothes for the whole family.

“We also have a treasure section that is a lot of antique items or things that might be worth a little bit more than what you would pay at a yard sale,” she said.

A \$5 bag sale will be held during the final hour of the sale. Participating shoppers will receive a brown bag and may fill it up for \$5.

“Whatever’s in it, it does not matter. Any-

thing in this warehouse,” she said.

Random sales also are scheduled to be held throughout the day.

“We usually do good deals the day of to get people buying them,” she said.

The event will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Anyone who enters must wear a mask the entire time and remain 6-feet apart from others at all times.

Gilley said there would also be a person limit of 50-75 shoppers allowed in the building at a time and temperature checks will be done at the door.

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

	9		3					5
							6	
		4	1			8	7	
						2		
	6			4				
5							1	
	5				7			8
8		3	9				4	
		7						3

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

3	9	9	8	1	4	7	2	6
2	7	7	9	6	6	3	8	1
8	6	1	7	3	2	9	5	4
4	1	6	3	2	6	8	7	5
7	3	5	6	4	8	2	6	1
6	8	2	1	7	5	6	4	3
6	7	8	2	5	1	4	3	9
1	6	3	4	6	7	8	5	2
5	4	2	6	8	3	1	6	7

ANSWER:



Henry County student among state contest winners

Elyssa Kancherla, a Bassett High School student, was selected as a winner of the 10th annual STEM Essay Contest.

The Governor and First Lady Northam and the Virginia Council on Women announced the winners Friday.

Kancherla was one of two selected in the Southwest/Southside Virginia regions. The other student, Abby Bartz, attends Abingdon High School.

The 10th Annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Essay Contest for young women in their junior and senior years of high school. The award-ees will be recognized at a virtual reception hosted by the Governor and First Lady later this month.

“This annual contest is one important way that we are working to encourage more girls to pursue their interests in STEM careers and increase representation in science, technology, mathematics, and engineering professions,” said Gov. Northam. “The First Lady and I are so proud of this year’s contest winners and hope every student who submitted essays will be inspired to continue learning and nurturing their passion for STEM.”

The Virginia Council on Women established this contest in 2012 to award scholarships to high school junior and senior

girls planning to pursue STEM careers at institutions of higher education, including four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, and career and technical schools. Contest award winners represent the five geographic regions across Virginia. This year, nearly 100 young women from across the Commonwealth submitted essays focusing on their vision for a future STEM career. To date, the Council has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarships through this annual essay contest. The Virginia Council on Women’s definition of STEM includes majors and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In 2020, the Council broadened its definition of STEM to STEAM-H for the 10th annual contest, which includes science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, and health care. This decision was made to be more inclusive of the growing intersection between STEM and the arts.

“For years now, the Virginia Council on Women’s STEM Essay Contest has increased educational access for students throughout the Commonwealth and we are thrilled to now expand this access to even more students,” said Da’Shaun Joseph, chairman of the Virginia Council on Women STEM Initiatives Committee. “The Council wishes this year’s

winners joy and success as they continue to learn and grow in their field.”

This year, one merit-based and one need-based scholarship will be awarded in each of five geographic regions across the Commonwealth.

In addition to Southwest/Southside, other regions are Eastern Virginia/Hampton Roads, Richmond/Central Virginia, Valley, Western Virginia and Northern Virginia.

Merit-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay submitted and need-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay and the individual’s self-identified financial need. Award amounts may vary and are determined by the Council annually. Essay entries were judged by a panel of Council members and individuals who represent STEM fields.

The chief purpose of the Virginia Council on Women is to help women reach their potential and maximize their contributions to society and the Commonwealth as wage earners and citizens. The Council has initiated several projects to meet this goal, including the annual STEM Essay Contest for high school seniors. For additional information about the Council and available sponsorship opportunities, visit women.virginia.gov.

Carter Bank & Trust named Corporate Partner of the Year by DBRA

Carter Bank & Trust was recently recognized as a Corporate Partner of the Year by the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) for 2020.

The bank was recognized for its efforts in spearheading the Eco Ambassadors Council (EAC); a group of local businesses throughout the region that have invested in environmental programs and projects to make a positive, visible impact for the communities they serve.

“It’s a great honor to be recognized by DRBA for our role in establishing the Eco-Ambassador Council,” Carter Bank & Trust President Brad Langs said. “Carter Bank & Trust is committed to actively engaging and partnering to advance environmental, social and governance initiatives that strengthen and enrich the communities we serve. We take a holistic approach to community involvement that extends beyond providing banking products and services and our commitment to organizations such as DRBA and EAC are both such examples.”

Tyler Carter, a commercial banker with Carter Bank & Trust, was instrumental in getting EAC started.

“I was honored to accept the award on behalf of Carter Bank & Trust,” Carter said. “This award not only recognizes our role in forming the Eco Ambassador Council, but is a further testament to the bank’s commitment to serve, grow and sustain our local community. We look forward to continuing to bring



Tyler Carter, a commercial banker with Carter Bank & Trust, shows off The Bank’s 2020 Corporate Partner of the Year Award from the Dan River Basin Association. Carter Bank & Trust was recognized for its work in starting the Eco Ambassador’s Council, a group of local businesses throughout the region that have invested in environmental programs and projects to make a positive, visible impact for the communities they serve.

positive change in our communities, through the efforts of the Eco Ambassador Council.”

Carter Bank & Trust will support additional local and regional-based non-profit organizations throughout its footprint, through its CARE Forward campaign, making a monetary donation for every checking account opened in a branch.

Donations for checking accounts opened online will be made to the American Red Cross.

Headquartered in Martinsville, Va., Carter Bank & Trust is a \$4.1 billion, state-chartered community bank with branches in Virginia and North Carolina. Additional information about Carter Bank & Trust is available at www.CBTCares.com

Governor’s goal is to double Virginia’s farm exports

Virginia’s largest industry is poised to play a big role in growing America’s brand globally.

Leaders from Virginia’s government, agricultural and economic sectors took part in the March 30 Governor’s Conference on Agricultural Trade to discuss opportunities for enhancing agricultural exports. The 13th annual event was held virtually this year and was sponsored in part by Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

Gov. Ralph Northam said agricultural leaders will continue to foster new markets for Virginia exports.

“Our goal is aggressive,” he said. “In the next 15 years, we will expand Virginia’s international trade output by nearly 50%. That would put us in the top 20 states for exports by 2035. If we can do that, we’ll add close to \$18 billion in annual exports to our current \$36 billion generated.”

Northam said he looks forward to increased stability in trade relationships with key partners worldwide.

Agricultural leaders and economists logged in from China to Washington, D.C., including U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. He outlined how agricultural trade is essential to President Joe Biden’s “Build Back Better” initiative.

While the past few years have been challenging for American agriculture, Vilsack is optimistic about the future as commodity prices improve and trade increases. He explained the trajectory can be bolstered by expand-

ing American exports, strengthening relationships in the markets, cultivating an international presence and diversifying trading partnerships.

He said farmers should anticipate “incredible opportunities for American agriculture” as the middle class grows in Southeast Asia.

“In Asia, we anticipate and expect in the next 15 years there will be an increase in middle-class consumers by 3.5 billion people,” Vilsack said. “That’s 10 times the population of the U.S., so it makes sense to have opportunities in Southeast Asia.”

Virginia’s farmers showcase the American brand—one that is innovative, places a premium on safety and practices sustainability, he said.

“Virginia has great producers and a gover-

nor who understands the importance of trade, and a tremendous diversity of products you can provide, and the ability to literally do business all over the world, as you are today,” Vilsack said.

Several experts weighed in, including Dr. John Newton, American Farm Bureau Federation’s chief economist, who said the farm economy is moving in a positive direction with the highest crop prices in years. Production has far outpaced the industry’s carbon footprint—feeding and clothing more Americans than ever—and expanding trade abroad, he said.

“We’re producing 150 times more agricultural products than we did 30 years ago,” Newton said. “At the same time our inputs are virtually unchanged. We’re doing more with less.”

BBQ

from page 1



the pigs and meat will be provided there and will be packaged up for pickup that afternoon from 1-5 p.m.”

All the meat will come from pigs sourced locally out of Stuart, according to Sabin, who added that the sauce will be from Checkered Pig.

“We are only doing tubs of barbeque this year,” she said. “A tub is a pound, and a pound is \$8. If people can’t pick it up that day, they can pick it up the following week. They just need to let us know. Along with that, these will be frozen. If there is some left over, people can still come up that following week.”

Sabin said presales are anticipated.

“People can call the Centre or come by and place their order,” she said. “We are trying to get everyone to pre-pay as well, so that it is

a smoother process for everyone on Saturday. Nobody has to wait on change or anything like that. If people show up and want barbeque, and if we still have some, obviously we will still handle that.”

In past years, Sabin said the competition attracted “thousands of people to the grounds,” but due to the pandemic precautions, that won’t be the case this year.

“We are hoping that some of our other entertainment – our vendors, fair, music, cruise-in – we are hoping to have a secondary event in late May or early June so that we can bring all of those attractions in and do it a little more feasibly,” she said.

Along with the competition, the Centre also will sell tickets for Pig Patty Bingo. Tickets are available for \$20 and Sa-

bin said the winner will walk away with \$500.

“This year, someone has purchased 10 tickets and we are going to take nominations if one of those tickets is drawn for a family in the community who has been hit really hard over the last year,” Sabin said. “They will actually win the \$500 if one of those tickets is claimed.”

Sabin said the event will include stations for arts and crafts in the building, with a painting class and butterfly-related projects.

Even with the other events, Sabin said the Centre will still be far from the 50-person capacity limit due to executive orders.

For any questions or concerns, contact the Spencer-Penn Centre at (276) 957-5757 or spc.susan@yahoo.com



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS

EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website:
www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.

We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

OPINION

Unhealthy skepticism

As I write this, it's been three days since I got my second COVID vaccine shot. I had no ill effects with the first one, but with the second one, I had a pretty sore arm and I felt lethargic for a couple of days. I'm pretty much back to normal now, and I got to spend a couple of days lying in bed watching horror movies guilt-free, so that wasn't a bad deal.

The thing that struck me after the very first shot was the sudden and overwhelming sense of relief. I had the same sensation when my parents were fully vaccinated (and unlike me, neither of them suffered any side effects). It was like a weight I'd been carrying for a year had suddenly fallen off my back.

Of course, I realize the limitations of the vaccine. Scientific evidence has shown that while it limits the odds of contracting the virus, it doesn't eliminate those odds completely. However, if you do catch COVID after being vaccinated, evidence shows that the effects will be on the mild end of the spectrum.

And, of course, the jury is still out regarding whether or not vaccinated people can still spread the disease. We just haven't been able to compile enough data yet. We will in time.

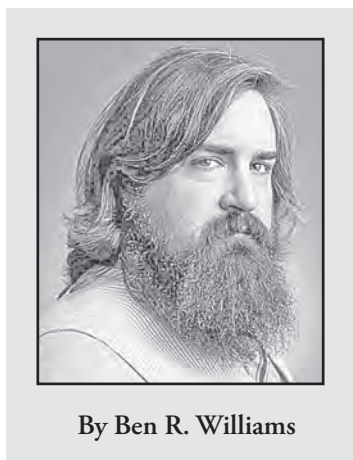
All of this is to say, we're not out of the woods on this

thing yet, but there's good reason to feel hopeful. The finest medical scientists in the world put in long hours for a year in order to turn around workable vaccines in record time, and an incredible infrastructure was built on the fly to mass produce and distribute those vaccines. The system obviously isn't perfect — there are still far too many people who want the vaccine and aren't able to get it — but it's pretty good, and it will get better. The future looks a whole lot brighter than it did this time last year.

Of course, every silver lining has its cloud, and in this case, that cloud goes by the name "anti-vaxxer."

Yes, there are millions of people in the world — millions just in this country — who refuse to get the COVID vaccine. Some of these are people who believe the vaccine was put together too quickly to be effective (which ignores the fact that the different varieties of COVID vaccines are built off of the framework provided by pre-existing vaccines, but I digress). Others believe all vaccines are dangerous, a theory they have had years to develop on account of not dying of polio.

On the one hand, I do wish more people would choose to get vaccinated. In order to hit herd immunity, it's believed we need a solid 90 percent of the population to get vaccinated, and



By Ben R. Williams

the statistics I've seen show that we'll be lucky if we hit 75 percent. But on the other hand, I don't care.

Before we had a vaccine, I often railed against folks who refused to wear masks or practice social distancing. I felt then — and still feel — that they placed more value on their comfort and selfishness than on the lives of others.

While I feel similarly about anti-vaxxers, I'm having a hard time caring as much. My loved ones are largely vaccinated. And while I do feel a great deal of sympathy for those who cannot get the vaccine due to legitimate medical reasons, if some anti-vaxxer ends up on a ventilator because he was convinced a COVID shot would change his DNA based on a misspelled article posted to www.freedomrights. truth, I have a hard time shedding any tears at this point. As the old

saying goes, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't force it to make smart life choices due to its colossal misunderstandings regarding science and medicine. Maybe that sounds callous, but the events of the last year have made me the man I am today.

Here's where I draw the line, however:

If you don't want to get the vaccine yourself, don't talk anyone else out of getting it.

Some of you probably read that line and thought, "Geez Ben, you're so desperate for a column idea that you're making up a fake problem just to argue against it." Oh, how I wish that were the case.

I know people — actual people in my life — who have been shamed by their loved ones for getting the vaccine. They've been told they're going to die horribly very soon because they got vaccinated. I even know people who have talked elderly loved ones out of getting the vaccine. These are people who, if they were to catch COVID, would very likely die.

To be clear, this is not a partisan problem. No, in my experience, whether you believe COVID is a fake disease no worse than the flu that was created to make the former president look bad, or whether you believe that all diseases can be cured by placing healing crystals on your chakras, the most uninformed people from both ends of the po-

litical spectrum can come together to form a death cult. It would be heartwarming if not for, you know, the death.

One of my favorite quotes of all time, often attributed to former Supreme Court Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., is as follows: "The right to swing my fist ends where the other man's nose begins." If someone is convinced that the vaccine was designed by Bill Gates in order to put a Satanic microchip in their body, fine. But the moment that person tries to sway the opinion of an innocent bystander, that's where I draw the line.

We are fortunate to be experiencing a remarkable moment in time, a moment when brilliant people from all different walks of life came together and used their collective wisdom to crack a problem that once seemed nearly insurmountable, and they did it in record time. In the future, I firmly believe that history will look back on the development of the COVID vaccine the same way we look back on the remarkable medical breakthroughs of folks like Louis Pasteur, or Max Theiler, or Jonas Salk.

Of course, it's possible that back in the day, the anti-vaxxers of the era called Salk a devil-worshipping con-man who was trying to kill them with his evil vaccine. It was just a lot harder to hear them from inside their iron lungs.

The perseverance of faith

Morgan Griffith
9th District U.S. Rep.

In our country, we are very fortunate to recognize each individual's ability to practice his or her religion, or not practice a religion, as they see fit.

The current time of year is a period of the utmost importance for many people of faith. Two of the world's great religions observe holidays which are central to their meaning: Easter in Christianity and Passover in Judaism.

As they did last year, these holidays take place in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic that has claimed too many lives. The coronavirus had also disrupted many of the activities of daily life, including religious observances for people of faith. But the dangers of the pandemic, like many other dangers, cannot stifle belief.

The practice of religious belief has overcome worse. Even

if we gather with precautions to inhibit the spread of the virus or use tools such as Zoom to meet virtually, we can still connect with fellow believers and express our faith openly. We are still fortunate to live in a country where, as George Washington wrote to the Jewish congregation of Newport in 1790, "All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship."

That has not always been the case anytime or anywhere. One does not have to look far away or far back to find different circumstances, in which practicing faith openly could be dangerous.

I recently read Graham Greene's classic novel *The Power and the Glory*. Although fictional, it is set in a real time and place, 1930s Mexico. At the time, the socialist government running the province of Tabasco was persecuting the Catholic Church — in a country along our

borders within living memory.

But Greene's novel portrays not only persecution of a faith but its power. The protagonist is an unnamed priest fleeing for his life from the authorities. A flawed man and well aware of it, the priest feels guilt and fear but nevertheless performs his duties and attends to the spiritual needs of others. The *Power* and the *Glory* shows how faith can transcend limitations, whether our very own or those imposed by a government.

I have told in this column on Easter before a story about the Soviet Communist leader Nikolai Bukharin. As the story goes, in 1930 he traveled to Kiev to speak before a large crowd and vigorously denounced religion. After he finished, he asked if the audience had questions.

In response, a man came to the speaker's platform and shouted to the crowd in the customary Orthodox way, "Christ is risen!" The crowd answered

back, "He is risen indeed!"

The story about Bukharin in Kiev has been told many times, but it may be a legend; no reporting at the time confirms it, although the Communist rulers of the Soviet Union no doubt would not want such a story to be repeated. But decades after the episode with Bukharin reputedly took place, the whole world could see in a Community-ruled country a similar widespread affirmation of faith and rejection of state-imposed atheism.

In 1979, John Paul II had just become the new pope. Formerly Karol Wojtyla of Poland, he made a return visit to his homeland in June. Poland at the time was ruled by Communists aligned with the Soviet Union, and the regime imposed restrictions on worship in accord with its atheistic doctrines.

When he returned, hundreds of thousands of Poles turned out to see him. They were proud of

a native son, but they turned out for more than that. As he preached to the crowd, they chanted, "We want God!"

Their faith could not be suppressed by Communist tyranny, and in the end, their faith outlasted Communist tyranny.

These stories show how faith can persevere even amid the harshest circumstances. So, too, do the holidays being observed at this time of year. Passover came out of a time when the Jewish people were in bondage in Egypt, and Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his trial and crucifixion, overcoming death itself.

For those celebrating like my family and myself, I wish you a happy Easter. For all others, I wish you peace.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or via email at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

Race Week

from page 1

Blue-Emu to start our NASCAR spring race week by sharing our appreciation to the dedicated frontline healthcare workers at Sovah Health — Martinsville," said Martinsville President Clay Campbell. "Sovah Health is a long-time valuable partner with the speedway, so we're honored to recognize their sacrifices to care for our community during these unprecedented times."

"I'm really excited to partner with our friends at Blue-Emu to honor all of the brave frontline healthcare workers at Sovah Health," said seven-time Martinsville winner Rusty Wallace, "Martinsville Speedway has always been a special place for me, and Sovah Health is definitely a special part of the community."

After Wallace and Campbell led the NASCAR hauler parade around the Sovah Health — Martinsville campus in Martinsville Speedway's Ford Mustang Pace Car, they were joined by Blue-Emu Executive Vice President of Marketing Ben Blessing and Sovah Health — Martinsville Interim Chief Executive Officer Tory Shepherd for a ceremony to share gratitude to frontline healthcare workers.

"During the early days of the pandemic, emotions were high as we prepared for the unknown," Shepherd recalled. "Our quick response and preparedness to what was back then, the unknown, demonstrates the power of our employees, the strength of our team, and the value of our community-centered care. Every day, our team at Sovah Health-Martinsville showed up to care for our neighbors, families, and friends. Because of this pandemic, we are more connected to each other and our community."

The hospital participated in numerous events to spread awareness during the pandemic and expand

access to care and preventative measures, Shepherd said.

"We worked closely with our partners to increase access to testing and treatment options to improve access for our patients," she said. "Most recently, we have been taking part in vaccinating our community in collaboration with our first responders as we work to further prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are grateful for our community that trusted us with their care and our many partners who worked alongside and supported our team during a challenging year."

The Martinsville Speedway has been one of the partners for healthcare workers during the pandemic. Based on figures from the Virginia Department of Health and as of April 6, 23,726 doses of the vaccine had been administered in Henry County, with 9,008 fully vaccinated. Similarly, 6,419 doses have been administered in the City of Martinsville, with 2,480 fully vaccinated.

Wallace first thanked the frontline workers for their contributions and then discussed his personal experience with the vaccine.

"I'm here to tell you that it didn't hurt," Wallace said. "Everything was fine, and I had no after-effects at all. Nothing. I've heard how some people get sick, but it didn't happen to me, so I was really fortunate."

"I'm just here to tell you, if you are eligible to get the vaccine, get it," Wallace said. "I don't care if it's Pfizer, Moderna or any one of them. If it's available to you, go ahead and get it. They are all safe. They are all good. I have a lot more peace of mind now walking around with that vaccine. There's no doubt about that."

Blessing ensured some Sovah Health-Martinsville employees will be among those attending, as he pre-

sented 100 tickets to be distributed to hospital staff.

"It was heartbreaking last year because first of all, we couldn't come visit you all, but we couldn't even come to the race last year," he said. "I was talking to Clay — 30 percent — I think we can all agree that whether you are going to the race or not, seeing people in the stands is going to be very heartwarming."

"The frontline workers here today, there are not enough words to express the thanks from all of us for what you do," said Campbell. "It's fantastic that it is race week. It's a time we look forward to every year. We've got fans coming out this weekend."

The Speedway will be hosting a number of racing events April 8-10. On April 8, the Speedway and Virginia Tourism Corporation will be holding the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race at 7 p.m. The following day will be the Cook Out 250 Xfinity Series race at 7:30 p.m. The track last hosted a spring Xfinity Series race from 1982 to 1994. This will mark the first spring Xfinity Series race at Martinsville since 1994, and its first-ever at night. The last day of race weekend will be the 2021 Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 race at 7:30 p.m.

Due to social distancing requirements, Campbell said the Speedway could not operate at a full 30 percent. He explained that an estimated 1,000 fans were notified in early March whether their ticket purchases would be honored. Those unable to attend this weekend could trade the tickets for the October race, the race next spring, or that the tickets could go towards another future race.

According to the Speedway's website, tickets for the race are no longer available.

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Debbie Hall, *Editor*

dhall@theenterprise.net

(276) 694-3101

Brandon Martin, Reporter

newsreporter@theenterprise.net

Randy Thompson, Advertising Manager

advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

(540) 230-1129

Liz Moonbury, Advertising Specialist

advertising@theenterprise.net

(276) 694-3101

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VEC investigating potential identity theft reports

Brandon Martin
Staff writer

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) is looking into reports that some customers' banking information may have been changed without their permission.

"VEC is investigating these reports and has limited some functionality on our claims filing website until further notice," said Joyce Fogg, communications manager for the VEC. "We are investigating each report, but at this point, there is no evidence that our systems were compromised or hacked. Out of an abundance of caution, we have taken steps to mitigate the potential impact from these reports."

Those who believe they are a victim of identity theft for their unemployment insurance claim can report it by visiting <https://www.vec.vir>

ginia.gov/unemployed/fraud. Additionally, customers can verify their current banking information by calling the Voice Response System at 1-800-897-5630.

"Customers are reminded to never share their PIN with anyone and VEC will not contact you asking you to update your banking information or to share your PIN," Fogg said. "We will provide additional information as soon as it is available."

The initial unemployment claims in Henry County and Martinsville more than doubled in the last week of March but remained lower than the comparable week in 2020, according to figures by the VEC.

During the week ending March 20, Henry County had 46 initial claims. The number increased to 101 initial claims in the week ending March 27. Similarly, the City of Martinsville had 168

initial claims compared to 75 claims the week prior. Patrick County also had a smaller increase of 9 claims for a total of 35 claims in the week ending March 27.

The VEC announced that the overall number of initial claims filed during the week were 75 percent lower than March 27, 2020 when pandemic employment impacts first began to be felt.

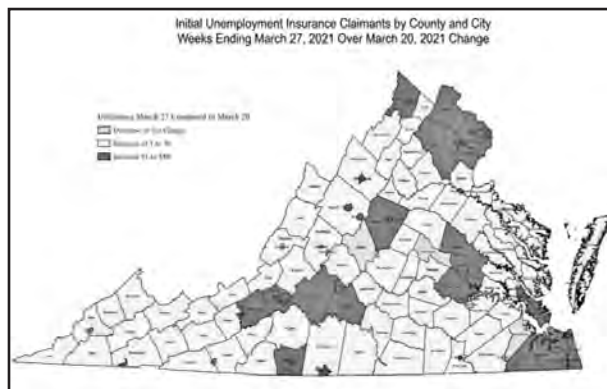
Across the Commonwealth, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 28,244. The latest claims figure was an increase of 10,684 claimants from the previous week. This brought the total number of claims filed since the March 27, 2020 filing week to 1,554,169, compared to the 477,600 average filed during the previous three economic recessions since 1990.

For the most recent filing week, continued weeks claimed totaled 57,072 in

Virginia which was a 2.0 percent decrease from the previous week but 15,245 higher than the 41,827 continued claims from the comparable week last year. Over half of claims that had a self-reported industry were in the accommodation/food service, administrative and waste services, retail trade, and healthcare/social assistance industries.

The continued claims in Henry County slightly increased from 361 claims to 364 claims. Martinsville also had a slight increase from 186 claims to 190 claims. Patrick County was the only locality of the three which experienced a decrease in continued claims. The county dropped from 98 claims to 83 claims.

Nationwide, in the week ending March 27, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 719,000, an increase



of 61,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 26,000 from 684,000 to 658,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 714,433 in the week ending March 27, an increase of 63,282 (or 9.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 5,981,787 initial claims in the comparable week in 2020. Looking at preliminary data, most states reported increases on a

seasonally unadjusted basis. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+30,696) was the largest increase among states. Kentucky's preliminary weekly change (+15,869) was the second largest increase. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (+11,862) was the third largest increase. California's preliminary weekly change (+9,628) was the fourth largest increase. Ohio's preliminary weekly change (-15,718) was the largest decrease.

PCS board among those slated to receive federal funds

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded \$498,961 to the Piedmont Regional Community Services Board, based in Martinsville, to develop a substance abuse recovery ecosystem and remove barriers to obtaining employment for those recovering from substance abuse.

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA) said the funds will be used to support those suffering from substance use disorder by increasing the number of recovering individuals in Martinsville and Henry County and expanding the program that currently serves Patrick County.

"Over the course of the pandemic, we have seen an increased demand for substance abuse treatment," the Senators said. "We are glad to announce that this funding will provide increased support to those struggling with addiction in Southwest and Southside Virginia."

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, said "Substance abuse can throw a person's life off track, but the disruption does not need to be permanent. Helping those in recovery enter or reenter the workforce is an important step forward for them and allows local employers to benefit from their talents. Today's ARC award of \$498,961 to the

Piedmont Regional Community Services Board will help develop recovery programs and aid individuals in the region on the path from substance abuse to workforce entry."

ARC awarded the grant as part of its INvestments Supporting Partnerships In Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) initiative.

Vaccine workforce expands as eligibility opens to more age groups

In advance of last week's announcement that all adults in Virginia age 16 and older will be eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine starting April 18, Gov. Ralph Northam detailed several efforts aimed at increasing Virginia's vaccinator workforce to support the continued expansion of COVID-19 vaccinations across the Commonwealth, including a new initiative to recruit eligible individuals interested in administering vaccines.

Northam recently signed House Bill 2333/Senate Bill 1445, which expand the pool of health care providers eligible to administer the COVID-19 vaccine in Virginia. Last month, the Governor issued Third Amended Executive Order Fifty-Seven to provide additional flexibility to health care providers in supporting

the Commonwealth's vaccination program and ongoing COVID-19 response.

"Last year, we issued a call for 30,000 medical and non-medical volunteers to join our fight against COVID-19, and I am proud that over 35,000 Virginians have since stepped forward to assist through the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps," said Northam. "Thanks to the tireless efforts of our health care providers and volunteer vaccinators, Virginia is administering an average of nearly 67,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine each day and has given over 3.8 million shots to date. By further expanding our vaccinator workforce, we can build on this momentum and ensure we have additional vaccination capacity as supply increases and more individuals be-

come eligible to receive the vaccine."

Health care providers who are now authorized to administer the COVID-19 vaccine in Virginia include but are not limited to dentists, dental hygienists, veterinarians, optometrists, and health professions students enrolled in an accredited Virginia program. Eligible providers may serve as vaccinators if they have the appropriate training and meet the supervision requirements. All COVID-19 vaccine providers are responsible for ensuring that individuals who administer shots at their site are authorized by law to do so.

Eligible health care providers may register to volunteer as a COVID-19 vaccinator through either the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) or the

newly-established Virginia Volunteer Vaccinator Registry (VVVR).

"These efforts to increase the ranks of vaccinators will immediately affect Virginians and their ability to get vaccinated as quickly as possible," said State Health Commissioner M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA. "We need 'all hands on deck' as we ramp up our vaccination campaign."

Established in 2002, the Virginia MRC is a force of dedicated volunteers who stand ready to support the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in responding to public health emergencies and addressing ongoing public health initiatives. MRC volunteer vaccinators are required to complete a background investigation, volunteer orientation, vaccination-specific

training as outlined by the VDH and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and a skills assessment to demonstrate competency in administering the COVID-19 vaccine. MRC medical volunteers may have the opportunity to serve in other positions and response missions.

The VVVR is a temporary COVID-19 emergency program administered by VDH and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) that serves as a pathway for eligible providers who only wish to serve as vaccinators during the COVID-19 response. Qualified registry volunteers are required to complete vaccination-specific training as outlined by the CDC and VDH and demonstrate competency in administering the COVID-19 vaccine.

A list of credentialed volunteers will be made available to hospitals, non-profit agencies, and local health departments operating community vaccination clinics upon request.

Registering through either pathway is not a guarantee that an eligible health care provider will be enlisted to vaccinate, and volunteers may not be deployed immediately. While most Virginia localities are meeting the current need for COVID-19 vaccinators through existing workforce channels, demand is expected to increase alongside the Commonwealth's growing supply of federally allocated vaccines.

For more information or to sign up as an MRC or VVVR volunteer, please visit vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-community-vaccinator.

Gas prices trend down during holiday weekend

Virginia gas prices have fallen 0.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.73/g today, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Gas prices in Virginia are 8.0 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 89.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia is priced at \$2.37/g Monday while the most expensive

is \$3.49/g, a difference of \$1.12/g. The lowest price in the state Monday is \$2.37/g while the highest is \$3.49/g, a difference of \$1.12/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.86/g today. The national average is up 9.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 95.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

Neighboring areas and their

current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$2.64/g, down 1.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.66/g.

Richmond- \$2.71/g, down 0.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.72/g.

West Virginia- \$2.74/g, unchanged from last week's \$2.74/g.

"Last week was a mixed bag for consumers at the pump as gas prices in half of states rose, while the other half saw declines, with

March closing like a lamb after starting out like a lion," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "Oil prices have shown signs of strength in the last few trading sessions, as OPEC agreed to raise oil production starting in May by a very modest 350,000 barrels per day. Overall, it's a small increase in output as global demand continues to show strength in light of Covid-related improvements.

U.S. gasoline demand rose for the sixth straight week as consumers hit the road for Easter, and with demand growth likely to remain robust, we may see a second attempt at a run at a national average of \$3 per gallon in the months ahead. While the last few weeks have seen gas prices hold mostly steady, it's not likely to last forever, especially as Americans increasingly get outside as warmer temperatures return."

Support

from page 1

became dependent and couldn't stop on my own. I was very lucky," she said. "I found a very progressive doctor who put me into a treatment like what we have at Groups. I would be dead today if I didn't have access to the \$400 a week to receive that treatment."

Bowman said the Groups approach has four major pillars: peer recovery, medication assistance treatment, individualized therapeutic health services and care coordination.

Unlike other opioid treatment programs, members of the group are prescribed Suboxone (buprenorphine/naloxone) weekly to curb cravings and sickness.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, buprenorphine/naloxone is a medication that works in the brain to treat opioid use disorders stemming from opioids including heroin, hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, and fentanyl.

The Alliance states that buprenorphine has a "ceiling effect," so the "opioid effects level off even with further dose increases which reduces the risk of misuse, dependency, and side effects. Buprenorphine lowers the effects of opioid withdrawal symptoms and cravings

to use opioids without having full opioid potency or effects. This helps people who take the medication abstain from other opioids."

Naloxone, conversely, can be injected into the bloodstream to cause someone who is dependent on opioids to have uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms, the Alliance said, adding that it helps discourage people who are dependent on intravenous (IV) opioids from injecting buprenorphine/naloxone.

"We look to humanize substance use and take it out of the shadows where it is treated like any other mental health issue with dignity and respect," Bowman said. "That is who we are and what we aim to do."

Bowman said other treatment support groups, such as Narcotics Anonymous or Alcoholics Anonymous, don't allow for medication assisted therapy "because you are not considered sober."

Not having that social support can be detrimental, according to Bowman.

"It's hard to get that peer recovery element that is integral to your success," she said. "What makes us unique is we are not treating the substance abuse. We are treating the person. That's why we have peer coordination that wraps

around the person any support services that they might be lacking. It connects them, if they are eligible, for nutrition assistance, housing assistance, insurance."

Bowman said the treatment also is affordable.

"What I'm really proud of with Groups is that we are here to remove barriers to care," she said. "If you don't have insurance, we have a sliding scale. The most you'll ever pay out of pocket is \$65 a week. That includes your weekly group, your visit with your doctor, and we have a care coordination team that helps you get insurance, get housing and they help you stabilize yourself."

To help with coordinating the daily affairs of the center, Lisa East has been hired on as the office manager.

"As someone who has navigated recovery, I know Lisa is going to be someone that makes sure people feel safe, validated and valued," Bowman said.

East said she took the position to help people.

"Helping people is really just what I'm used to," she said. "There is a need for it here in Martinsville and I would love to just be a part of helping the community."

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Federal help offered for access to broadband internet services

The Virginia Legal Aid Society is notifying Virginians that low-income individuals and families in Virginia and across the nation may be eligible to receive temporary federal assistance to pay for broadband internet services in the near future, due to a program designed to help people during the COVID-19 crisis.

“The ability to find services, help and information, to apply for jobs and

schedule COVID-19 vaccinations, and to take part in online school and college classes depends on having reliable internet connections. For many low-income people those connections are unavailable or unaffordable; that is why Virginia Legal Aid Society is helping to publicize this financial help,” said David Neumeier, executive director of Virginia Legal Aid Society.

Families and individuals

will receive a monthly discount of up to \$50 (or up to \$75 for eligible households on tribal lands). They will not receive the money directly. Instead, the money will be sent to the provider of their broadband services. The provider, in turn, will lower the monthly bill of eligible families.

On Dec. 27., the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 became law and established an Emergency

Broadband Connectivity Fund of \$3.2 billion in the United States Treasury to help Americans afford internet service during the pandemic. The act directed the Federal Communications Commission to use the fund to establish an Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program), under which eligible low-income households may receive a discount off the cost of broadband service and

certain connected devices, and participating providers can receive a reimbursement for such discounts. The EBB Program will conclude when the fund is expended or six months after the end of the public health emergency.

The FCC has not established a start date for the program yet, but the commission said people should be able to sign up for the benefits by the end of April.

“If you have questions about your eligibility, which broadband providers are part of the program or any other issues, the Federal Communications Commission has an online page, www.fcc.gov/consumer-faq-emergency-broadband-benefit, with information, or you can call 888-225-5322 toll-free and press option 6; the number is open 9 am to 9 pm seven days a week,” Neumeier said.

USDA seeks input on a new rural renewable energy pilot program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is requesting public input from interested parties, including potential customers and interested stakeholders, to help create a new Rural Renewable Energy Pilot Program. To ensure a diverse group of voices are heard, USDA is seeking written comments and will host a public listening session on April 22, 2021.

“When we invest in creating new sources of renewable energy, we invest in rebuilding the middle class by creating good-paying jobs in rural America,” USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Rural

Development Justin Maxson said. “To meet this goal, we must put rural communities at the heart of climate action and climate-smart solutions, and that begins with getting feedback from a broad, diverse set of voices from the start.”

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (PL116-260) provided \$10 million to USDA to develop a pilot program that provides financial assistance to rural communities to further develop renewable energy. This request for information and the stakeholder listening session seek input to help develop

options for the Rural Renewable Energy Pilot Program. The new program will aim to support the Nation’s critical energy needs, and combat climate change while advancing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity through the use of distributed energy technologies, innovations, and/or solutions.

The stakeholder listening session will be held virtually on Thursday, April 22, 2021, 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EDT. Anyone can RSVP to participate online by visiting: attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5335247546266883854

Public comment is requested on the following topics:

Program purposes, goals, metrics, and standards;

Eligible applicants, participants, partners including but not limited to communities, residencies, industry, and commercial entities;

Eligible technologies including but not limited to generation, storage, controller, and grid;

Potential impact of the pilot program and renewable energy systems more broadly on each of the following: environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity; and

Options to measure and maximize the benefits of renewable energy systems for environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity in rural areas.

Written comments are encouraged and must be submitted online by April 29, 2021, via the Federal eRule-making Portal. To submit a comment, visit www.regulations.gov and search for the Docket ID RBS–21–Business–0010. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. All comments received will be posted without change and will be publicly available on [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

OBITUARIES

Krista Elizabeth Walker

Krista Elizabeth Walker, 66, of Collinsville, Virginia passed away Sunday, April 4, 2021 at Sovah Health of Martinsville. She was born June 7, 1954 in Stoneville, N.C., and had lived most of her life in Bronx, New York, to the late Kelly and Rebecca Dalton Williams. She had attended Jane Adams High School in Bronx, New York. She had worked as a caregiver. She was a housewife like no other, loved interior decorating, the beach, was a free spirit, loved animals and was a tough feisty woman.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Michelle Williams; and her brother, Thomas Dalton.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Kenneth Walker; her daughter, Krista



Walker; sisters, Margarette Dalton-Hales and Sandra Williams; mother-in-law, Alberta Walker; grandchildren, Jasmine Mitchell, Jonathan Walker, Elijah Walker and Alianna Echevarria; great-grandchildren, Adrienne Mitchell, Aaliyah Skai Amill and Elijah Nasier Walker; and a host of several nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters-in-laws; friends and loved ones.

Her service will be Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the chapel of Wright Funeral Service with a visitation from 2:00 until time of service.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Harry F. Dalton, Jr.

Harry F. Dalton, Jr., February 8, 1929 – March 29, 2021.

Monday, March 29, 2021 was an awesome day in heaven. Harry was called home to be with his Lord and Savior, and reunited with Buck, his wife of 46 years.

Left behind to cherish his memory are his two daughters, Leesa D. McGregor and Julie D. Vest (Tim); one grandson, Joshua Craig Vest; all of Roanoke; brother Harold Dean Dalton (Anna) of Oklahoma; sister Jane Dalton Roberts (Dan) of Charlotte, sister-in-law Mollie Prillaman Dalton of Bassett, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his wife Nan (“Buck”), Harry was predeceased by his parents,

Harry (“Fed”) Dalton and Lulie M. Dalton, brother John Ezra Dalton, and an infant daughter.

Harry lived a full, active Christian life, not just with his words but also with his actions.

A private graveside service will be held at Roselawn, with a memorial celebration of Harry’s life to be held at a time when it is safe for us to gather once again.

Memorial contributions may be made to Starling Avenue Baptist, 932 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, please visit www.colinsmckeestonemartinsville.com.

Grady Carlton Maxey

Grady Carlton Maxey, 78, of Martinsville, passed away Monday, April 5, 2021. He was born February 1, 1943 in Franklin County to the late Edward Ray Maxey and Hazel Hall Maxey. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn Webb Maxey and a sister, Mary Minter.

He had been employed by Stanley Furniture and Hooker Furniture. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a fan of NASCAR Racing and Richard Petty. He was one of the founding members of Spring Street Baptist Church, and served in numerous positions over the years.

Mr. Maxey is survived by his daughters, Tina Maxey, Wendy Maxey, Lisa M. Clark, Tammy Ferguson (Ricky), and Kathy Hardy



(Glen); sons, Michael Gunter, Terry Gunter and Phillip Gunter (Debbie); sisters, Brenda Ratcliff, Linda Martin, Sharon Davis and Debbie Bates; brothers, Junior Ray Maxey, Lannie Maxey, Ike Maxey and Timmy Maxey; grandchildren, Wesley Maxey, Ceirra Clark and D. L. Clark; great-grandson, Tucker Maxey; and numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

A Memorial Service was Thursday, April 8, 2021, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel. The Revs. Daniel Lackey and Steven Lackey presided. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

James Harold Roop

James Harold Roop, 81, of Danville, Virginia passed away Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at SOVAH Health of Danville. He was born October 1, 1939, in Grayson County, Virginia to the late James and Winnie Stuart Roop. He was a former member of Trinity Baptist Church and a member of Faith Memorial Baptist Church. He was the owner of Roop Building and Remodeling. Mr. Roop was a hard worker and player. He liked to ski, golf, and the beach. He loved life and his family, but most of all he loved the Lord.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Billy and Daryle Roop; sister Judy Asbery; brother-in-law, Sonny; and stepdaughter, Angelia Woody.



He is survived by his wife, Brenda Emler Roop; daughter, Karen R. Hamann (Dale); sister, Geraldine Hill (Randall); brother, Harry Roop (Marie); grandchildren, Kirsten Hamann, Tara Gallimore (Josh) and James Blake (Mary); and great grandchildren; Jackson Gallimore, Piper Gallimore and Luna Blake.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 3, 2021, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel with Pastors Jim Steele, Daniel Lackey, and Austin Merricks officiating. Visitation will be thirty minutes prior to the service.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net

Herman Ellsworth Haley, Jr.

Herman Ellsworth Haley, Jr. age 87 of Stanleytown passed away Friday, April 2, 2021, at Sovah Martinsville. He was born March 26, 1934, in Bassett to the late H.E., Sr. and Alta Lovell Haley Andes. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his youngest son Jeffrey “Jeff” Haley on January 9, 2021, and two brothers, Wayne Haley and Dink Haley.

Ellsworth was a member of the First Graduating Class from the former Bassett High School, received his Associate Degree from Ferrum College, his BS degree from Lynchburg College in accounting, was a lifetime active member of Stanleytown UMC, chairman of the Finance Committee for over 30 years, was the Trustee of the Chatham Family Trust. He was a Sunday School teacher, a lifetime member of the choir, leader of the Thursday Morning Bible Study, a member of the JB Singers Group, a well-known soloist who sang for many weddings and funerals, a Charter member of the Stanleytown Ruritan Club, and a member of the Henry County Planning Commission. He retired from Stanley Furniture Company as a Senior Vice President and served his country in the U.S. Army. Ells-



worth was also a long-time member of Bassett Country Club where he held the record for the lowest round of golf.

Ellsworth is survived by the love of his life for 66 years, Phyllis Lamm Haley, one son Robert “Rob” Haley and wife Marty, daughter in law, Lisa Haley, three brothers, Tom Haley and wife Patti, Mike Haley and wife Joy, and

Pat Haley, two sisters, Betty Mullen and husband Joe, Brenda Schulman and husband Stephen, four grandchildren, Trent Haley, Meredith Haley, Marena Haley, and Jason Collins.

The funeral was Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at Stanleytown UMC with Rev. David Westmoreland officiating. Interment was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Donations in memory of Ellsworth may be made to the Stanleytown UMC Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 206, Stanleytown, VA 24168, or the Peggy Johnson Scholarship Fund, 41 Dove Lane, Stanleytown, VA 24168.

Online condolences may be entered at www.wrightfuneral-service.com. Wright Funeral Service is serving the Haley Family.

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Virginia to expand access to childcare, increase support to providers

Virginia to expand access to childcare, increase support to providers

An additional \$203.6 million in federal stimulus funds and expanded eligibility criteria for the Child Care Subsidy Program will help further stabilize Virginia's early childhood care and education system, provide childcare assistance to additional families as they seek stable employment or return to work, and deliver critical operational and technical resources to new and returning childcare providers, Gov. Ralph Northam said in a release Friday.

"Early educators have been diligent and dedicated to keeping children safe and meeting the needs of our youngest Virginians since the early days of this public health crisis," said Northam. "As we emerge from the pandemic, the strength of our recovery will depend upon our ability to help families return to the workforce and provide quality, affordable options for early childhood care and education. These additional investments will help address the challenges childcare providers are facing and ensure we can continue to deliver critical resources to those most in need now and into the future."

While nearly 90 percent of childcare center programs have reopened, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in ongoing staffing challenges, revenue shortfalls, and increased operational costs for many providers. Through the additional funding, Virginia will continue to provide stabilization grants to sustain current providers and help closed providers re-open as well as retention bonuses and scholarships for childcare educators. To support families and children

in areas where there are few or no options, Virginia will also offer grants to help open new programs.

The expansion of the Child Care Subsidy Program is a result of House Bill 2206, which Northam recently signed into law. It establishes a new short-term eligibility category for parents seeking financial assistance for childcare while they are looking for employment and temporarily expands income eligibility guidelines for families with young children. The new income eligibility levels allow families with a household income of up to 85 percent of the state median income to apply if they have a child under age five, or not yet in kindergarten, to qualify. Funding for the new eligibility category comes from federal coronavirus relief funds dedicated to childcare assistance that Virginia received through the December 2020 stimulus package.

The additional federal funding will support families and childcare providers by enabling the Commonwealth to:

Waive co-payments for families in April, May, and June to reduce financial hardship and support children's access to care.

Increase absence days so that providers and families can manage occurrences where childcare providers may temporarily need to close, or children may need to quarantine.

Build the foundation for a statewide mental health consultation program to assist childcare providers in helping children through this difficult time.

Issue a fourth round of childcare stabilization grants to eligible open providers in Virginia.

Provide funding for grants and contracts to support increased access to childcare in underserved communities.

Supplement the state's innovative childcare educator incentive program so that eligible educators in childcare centers and family day homes that receive public funding such as the Child Care Subsidy Program are now eligible for up to \$2,000 this year to strengthen quality and reduce turnover.

"We know that access to quality early childhood care and education has been a concern for many working families, even before the pandemic," said S. Duke Storen, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). "Over the past year, enrollment in our Child Care Subsidy Program has declined by 32 percent, further demonstrating the financial burden families have continued to experience amidst the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. As Virginians return to school and work, we must not only ensure the available supply of child care to meet the increased demand, but also continue to make investments to maintain a strong child care system."

VDSS, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education, is working to operationalize the application process for expanded Child Care Subsidy Program eligibility. VDSS expects to be able to communicate additional program details and stabilization grant information to families and providers by mid-April.

For more information about childcare assistance in Virginia, visit ChildCareVA.com.

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All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

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Fairy Stone State Park Now Hiring Seasonal Positions! (Open until filled) - Boathouse Attendants, Chief Lifeguard, Contact Rangers, Groundskeepers, Housekeepers, Lifeguards, Office Assistants, visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs. DCR is EEO. Call (276) 930-2424 or Apply at Park Office, 967 Fairystone Lake Drive, Stuart, VA 24171.

PRIMLAND

Primland, a luxury resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains; is seeking Qualified Applicants for the following positions: Golf Shop Attendants, Golf Maintenance staff, Outdoor Activity Guides and Outdoor Activity Office staff, Valets, Dishwashers, Line Cooks, Servers and Housekeepers, as well as Guest Services agents. Qualified applicants should send resume to pvester@primland.com or apply at Primland.com/careers. Primland is an E/O/E.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given that the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. to receive comments on the Authority's intent to obtain relief from the moratorium prohibiting municipal utilities from disconnecting services to residential customers for non-payment of bills or fees. The PSA has notified customers in arrears of the COVID-19 Relief Repayment Plan. The PSA has demonstrated that accounts receivable arrearages exceed 1% of the annual operating revenues. The written analysis is available for public inspection at the General Manager's Office at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA 24112. Attendees are required to wear a face mask or covering and to exercise social distancing. For more information, contact the PSA General Manager's Office at 276-634-4601.

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for April 28, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of a Variance for the following case:

Case V-21-01 Mark A. and Diana H. Martin

A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-304 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for an accessory building to be placed 42' from the center of the road instead of the required 60'. The residence is located at 1846 Willie Craig Rd., in the Blackberry District and is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 26.1/37E.

The application for this request may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP

Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

Bassett couple wins big on wife's birthday

It was a particularly memorable birthday for Laura McDaniel. First, her husband Travis took her out to dinner. Then, on the way home, they bought some Virginia Lottery Scratchers.

One of those tickets ended up winning \$777,777.

"We're very blessed," she said, as she and her husband claimed their prize.

The Bassett couple was driving home from dinner in Danville when they stopped at Corner Market, located at 12288 Martinsville Highway in Danville. Later, when they got home, she scratched the Lucky 7s Multiplier ticket and discovered it was a top prize winner.

This is the fourth and final top prize-winning ticket in Lucky 7s Multiplier (game #1997), which means the game is being closed. It is the Lottery's policy to close Scratchers games after the final top prize is claimed. The odds of winning the top prize in this game were 1 in 734,400. The odds of winning any prize were 1 in 3.27.



McDaniel said they intend to stay humble and not let the money change them. And does she intend to continue playing the Lottery?

"I love scratching tickets!" she said. "They're fun."

Authorized by Virginia voters in a successful 1987 referendum, the Virginia Lottery generates more than \$1.6 million per day for Virginia's K-12 public schools. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, lot-

tery customers helped generate more than \$595 million dollars in funding for public education. For more information, visit the Virginia Lottery's Giving Back page, website or on social media.

Dig with care when planting

April is National Safe Digging Month, and the State Corporation Commission's Division of Utility and Railroad Safety (URS) is reminding all Virginians to Dig with C.A.R.E. to help keep Virginia's underground utility infrastructure damage-free and our communities, business districts and environment safe.

Dig with C.A.R.E. is a message for safe digging practices throughout the Commonwealth and its steps are summarized below:

Contact VA811 before you dig.

Allow the required time for marking the utilities.

Respect and protect the marks.

Excavate carefully.

Whether you're a professional contractor, Do-It-Yourselfer or homeowner, you have an important role in preventing damage to underground utilities. No matter how big or small your project is, contacting VA811 to request the marking of underground utility lines before you

dig will help avoid physical injury, property damage, as well as costly utility infrastructure repairs and related service interruptions.

Contact VA811 by going online at va811.com. You may also call 811 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding legal state and national holidays. (Emergency notification service is available 24/7, 365 days a year.)

For more information about safe digging and excavation, contact URS at 804-371-9980 or

visit the Damage Prevention page.

Submit your community news and photos to newsreporter@theenterprise.net

ATTENTION VOTERS
Mountain View Precinct #405
Effective with the June 8, 2021 Primary Election, the Mountain View Precinct will be moved from the VFW Building to the following location:
Woodland Heights Free Will Baptist Church
1995 Old Chatham Road
Martinsville, Virginia 24112
There is ample parking and it is handicapped accessible. All registered voters of the Mountain View Precinct will receive a new voter card indicating the polling place change.
Dawn Stultz-Vaughn
Henry County Registrar
3300 Kings Mountain Road #103
Martinsville, Virginia 24112



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In addition to Henry County Enterprise, which covers Martinsville and Henry County, our other Virginia publications include: The Enterprise (which covers Patrick County/Stuart - including Meadows of Dan and other communities near the Blue Ridge Parkway); Salem Times Register; Fincastle Herald; New Castle Record; News Messenger; News Journal; Vinton Messenger. Our publications in West Virginia are: Pocahontas Times; Parsons Advocate; Calhoun Chronicle; Clay County Free Press; Shinnston News; Harrison County Journal, and our flagship paper, Mountain Messenger.

Whether in or out of state, most of our coverage area is within a comfortable driving distance to Martinsville and Henry County. Visit <https://theenterprise.net/advertise/> to view the available sizes/placement of online ads.

HONOR ROLLS

County students earn high marks

Some Henry County chools have released their honor rolls for the 3rd nine-weeks grading period.

Students are listed below, according to school.

G.W. Carver Elementary School

Third Grade: Levi Anderson, Ian Baker, Jaxon Barnes, Kingston Dalton, Noah DeShazo, Rylan Eggleston, Jackson Fain, Jaxon Garten, Phoenix Grindstaff, Ny’Keese Hairston, Meah Hill, Isaac Lawson, Kameron Leghorn, Parker Lippencott, Maci Lovell, Jesse Minter, Landon Montgomery, Lauren Mosley, Laniyah Neal, Joseph Nemeth, Kendall Pruitt, Sydney Reynolds, Jesse Santillo, Wyatt Shelton, Jennifer Stowe, Noah Wade, Nicholas Whalen.

Fourth Grade: Alice Alger, Aubrie Dalton, Daniel Freeman, Daniel Gray, Aleah Jenkins, Ja’sye Martin, Evan Moore, Randy Staples, Serenity Whalen.

Fifth Grade: Talyn Andrews, Addyson Arnold, Josiah Bartlett, David Bowers, Bethany Burnette, Autumn Carlson, Kyle Childress, Jada Fain, Syncere Gravely, Gavin Grogan, Annabelle Huff, Kendall Prillaman, Karen Ramirez-Hernandez, Caleb Rodgers, Trey Root, Cooper

Shivley, Gregory Spencer, Hunter Willard.

Students who have received the honor roll award have earned all E’s and S’s on academics in grades K-3, and all A’s and B’s on academics in grades 4-5. Those students are:

Kindergarten: Kayla Ayers, Alaya Barner, Alyssa Hill, Lylah Holdaway, Brooklyn Martin, Ky’Leigh Turner, Kaelynn Wright.

First Grade: Peyton Ayers, Madilynn Brown, Liam Dehart, Alex Dehart, Hunter Eanes, Princeton Hairston, Danielle Kelsey, Hadley McBride, Meritxell Miranda-Castillo, Joseph Reynolds, Daniel Rose, Noah Spencer, Conner Vaughn.

Second Grade: Audrey Adkins, Silas Anderson, Alise Barrow, Lexi Bryan, Lyric Chandler, Malchcolm Dawson, Amelia Decker, Emma Epperly, Dawson Farrington, Alicia Huicochea, Kameron Jones, Brionna Manns, Daniel McAdams, Jocelyn McKinney, Emily Medina-Portugal, Christian Millner, Alora Nelson, Holly Noe, Aubrey Pegram, Alayah Perkins, Lilly Root.

Third Grade: Yarlee Ashley, Hannah Bartlett, Saniya Coles, Scarlett Eaton, Keirah Feggans, Brantley Fortner, Ayden Gonzalez, Ariel Jenkins, Javien Kidd, Treshon Marshall, Damien Meyers, Mason Mize, Faith Scott, Jazzmia Shelton, Benjamin Spencer, Grace Wade, Briar Ward, Ralph Ward, Bentley Warner, Kailey Williamson, Abdullah Yasar.

Fourth Grade: Anell Arnold, Ayden Coles, Aiden Day, Aiden Earnhardt, U’lyssa Edwards, Madison Gamez-Turpin, Lily Harvey, Saylor Hopkins, Cooper Jones, Kinley Jones, Kayleigh Lucas, Emalyn May, Hunter McBride, Jahmar Pilson, Kylan Shelburne, Hayden Shoup, Lillian Sink.

Fifth Grade: Max Boyer, Brooklyn Bryan, Gisselle Cruz Martin, Ariah Hairston, Isaiah Hairston, Autumn Hayes, Adison Haynes, Jackson Haynes, Andrew Hundley, Jordon Jacobs, Julie Jones, Camden Meeks, Asher Perry, James Roop, Piper Sill, Ivey Silva Reyes, Kayleigh Stowe, Lance Thompson, Dillon Wade, Matthew Witcher.

Meadow View Elementary

Principals Scholar Honor Roll

Kindergarten - Sha’Rion Adams, Lilly Boyd, Rowan Calloway Kingston Carter, Easton Ferguson, Stephen Fleagle, Melinda Foley, Robert Fox, Jayceon Gravely, Mason Hairfield, Jeremiah Hairston, Mya Hairston, Dynasty Harmon, Sterlin Hatcher, Lillian Hatchett, Heidi Haymore, Lilyanna Hodge, Luke Jones, Lucas Kennedy, Oliver Krejci, Annabelle Lavinder, Jewel Lawrence-Bowles, Mayra Mali, Allan Myers, Erion Nibblett, Vanellope Ortiz, Annabelle Ott, Meina Owens, Kameron Parker, Dhruv Patil, Elijah Perdue, Adam Salem, Ara-

bella Sceals, Kayden Smith, Kolden Sprinkle, Louis Tyree, Jordan Vasquez-Valencia, Mia Vazquez-Angles, Zakauri Waller-Young, Naughtia Warnick, Alexandra Woods, Cali Wright, Josephine Wright.

First Grade - Evelyn Anderson, Nathaniel Basham, Oliviana Belcher, Aubrie Brito, Noah Castro, Ethan Collins, Noah Davis, Tyler Deal, Conner Eldridge, Trevor Elliott, Brayleigh Flippin, Brantley Foster, Hayleigh Grant, Riley Greer, Aubrey Hairston, J’Ceon Hairston, Makenna Hassell, Nacin Holley, Amina Inge, Ahmiracle Johnson, Skylar Jones, Reina Lopez Gill, Kamryn Maldonado, Joey Meeks, Kolton Miller, Gavin Minter, Jhonathan Ortiz Lopez, Kaitlyn Pierce, Khristian Pitzer, Alivia Preston, Ryan Pruitt, Adalyn Robertson, Zackery Rose, Kingston Shough, Jayce Stockton, Abigail Swain, Asher Tipton, Travice Wade, Triton Webb, Joshua Wilson, Peyton Wilson, Rachel Woodward.

Second Grade - Kai Aaron, Mason Adkins, Zoe Aguilar, Elijah Alley, Natalie Barker, Claude Becker IV, Amya Bowman, Reese Brim, Ka’Miyah Brooks, Liliana Cortez Vazquez, Allen Crom, Anna Dalton, Christian Dixon, Briggs Favero-Wylie, Sawyer Ferguson, JaMil Foreman, Jason Garcia Ortiz, Alanna Gerlach, Rico Gomez, Kamden Gravely, Brayden Hale, Cody Hanks, Mackenzie Harman, Ava Hart, Rilee Harter, Evan Hatchett, Lynzi Haynes, Miranda Holt,

Zaiden Johnson, Emma Kendall, Mia Lopez Gill, Ash-ton Manns, DeAuri Matthews, Macinleigh Meeks, Sophia Pelaez, Victor Perez Lopez, Jayden Philpott, Mal-lory Plogger, Aubrey Powers, Corbin Pruitt, Dominik Reynolds, Christian Ross, Layla Salem, Itzel Sandoval-Campuzano, Anthony Santillo, Elijah Scales, Easton Sechrist, Alexis Smith, Chloe Smith, Nathan Wood, Carter Wright, Jorge Xaca.

Third Grade - Kyndall Anthony, Adam Bowman, Jeremiah Brown, Mason Cal-loway, JeanCarlo Diaz Alva-rez, Alexa Diaz, Benjamin Doan, Jyell Florence, Gray-son Hancock, Lucas Hatley, Linsey Helms, Brigham Hod-nett, Aeryn Holley, Kerrigan Hunley, Cooper Kendall, Lil-leanna Lawson, Caydence Martin, Jayce Martin, Dalton McKeen, Natalie Moorefield, Lily Phillips, Aubrey Rea, Brian Sechrist, Ethan Shel-ton, Ashley Smallwood, Riley Stanford, Emma Witt.

Fourth Grade - Isaac Bark-er, Andre Hairston, Isabella Hancock, Abigail Peyton, Sean Powell, Nathaniel Pow-ers, Kanara Reid, Dominique Ruben, Ella Santoemma, Konner Sceals, Samuel Se-christ, Zoe Smith, Alexander Street, Harley Williams, Jade Yates.

Fifth Grade - Aiden Cal-loway, Cade Collins, Kortnei Gravely, Sean Harper, Eyan Hubbard, Giovany Saligan-Medel, Cole Turner, Dallas VanBoskerck, Haleigh Wan-gler, Ronnie Witt, Ammon Woodward, Nicholas Yates.

Books

from page 1

were a big deal,” Provost said. “I went to shopping malls with my parents and grandparents and I later hung out in malls when I was a teenager. I really just missed it, so I decided I was going to look back and see the history of department stores and malls.”

Provost said his book begins with a reflection on common themes between department stores in his hometown of Fresno, California and his current home in Martinsville.

One store Provost mentioned is Globman’s, a former retail establishment on East Main Street.

“One of the things I found out in researching this is that Globman’s used to be on the courthouse square,” he said. “It started out there in 1915 and closed in the early 1990s. It was one of two or three major stores in the downtown area. It was the one that I think was the longest lasting.”

Like Gottschalks in his hometown, Provost said Globman’s was started by a Jewish family that immigrated to the country.

“There were a lot of Jewish merchants who started out different stores in different parts of the country from Philadelphia to Mar-

tinsville to Richmond. All these different places. Some of them knew each other and some of them were related,” he said. “There was this commonality. I decided to go from that commonality to looking at department stores and shopping malls. It expanded more into retail and big box stores. That’s the scope of the book. It’s largely 20th century retail that doesn’t really exist very much outside of Macys and Walmart.”

Provost said that Globman’s was once the peak shopping experience.

“I think Globman’s was one of those dry goods stores where they sold general store type stuff and they also sold clothing,” Provost said. “Clothing became more of their emphasis as time went on. Then they expanded into furniture and other things that you would find at a department store.”

At the time, the retail stores offered a lot of luxury, according to Provost.

“You’d have a person at the door and someone to take your coat. You’d have someone to measure your feet for your shoe and measure you for a coat or dress,” Provost said. “Inside these department stores, you’d have a place

to eat, like a cafe. You had a lot of these services. They would be really glamorous. They’d have a crystal chandelier, nice looking escalators, and wood carvings and so forth.”

Provost said things changed once bargain shopping and the shopping cart became more mainstream.

“Over the years, you had bargain basements where you’d give people an opportunity to go in the basement and look through discontinued stuff and get good bargains for them,” Provost said. “You also had super-markets coming in. You’d take a basket around and you did your own shopping rather than asking the person for your items. The invention of the shopping cart around 1940, then in the 1950s, these discount stores came into fashion. They would save you a lot of money because you didn’t need a door person or a hat check to pay, so they saved on all these salaries and could offer lower prices.”

The changing times came at a crescendo in the 1990s when Globman’s closed its doors for good.

“Globman’s was one of the few that went out of business because they

could see the writing on the wall,” Provost said. “They weren’t in the red, but they were heading in that direction. They decided they were going to quit while they were ahead and get out of the business.”

As department stores were on the decline, malls became the next iteration of the American shopping experience.

“A lot of stores had migrated to the stores from the downtowns. There was this adaptation,” Provost said. “Originally, most department stores were downtown. As downtowns began to die out because of interstates that transported people to the suburbs, suburban malls became their way of doing business.”

Like its department store predecessors, malls eventually died out as well, Provost said.

“Then the malls started to peter out around 2000,” he said. “As the internet and Amazon came along, that was kind of the death nail for them. Everyone just started buying everything online.”

This phenomenon also ties back to some of Martinsville’s shopping relics.

“You had the Patrick Henry Mall, which was the first outdoor mall in

town. Then it was replaced by the Liberty Fair Mall, and now it’s an outdoor big box type mall,” Provost said of the present day The Village of Martinsville. “It used to be an indoor mall that was founded on the site of this old swimming pool.”

With the onset of age of the internet, Provost said the former buildings could be used for other purposes as localities determine how to revitalize downtown districts.

“In my hometown of Fresno, we had one of those big box type malls. It’s now operating as a California Department of Transportation office,” he said. “In terms of downtowns, if you attract specialty stores, small boutique type stores, restaurants and bars will definitely bring people downtown. You have to have something to draw people downtown. Department stores frankly, do not draw people downtown.”

Provost said this doesn’t mean bustling streets in Martinsville has to be a thing of the past.

“We don’t have that here, but I don’t think that means that we can’t,” Provost said. “We have a pretty sweet looking downtown to be honest. It’s got

a lot of character.”

“The Great American Shopping Experience” can be purchased on Amazon for \$19.95.

Highways of the South

In his second book Provost discusses the impact of Prohibition on road development in the south.

“There were these folks that would run rum and they’d have to get away from the cops so they would sup up their cars and they’d put liquor in the back,” Provost said. “They found out the liquor would slosh around so the cops would know who is carrying liquor. The Ford V8s were generally the cars that allowed them to have enough horsepower to get away. They learned how to take the curves and eventually started doing these races between each other.”

Provost said the activity didn’t stop after the end of Prohibition.

“They were still doing moonshining after Prohibition,” he said. “They didn’t have to pay taxes on it, so why not.”

Instead, Provost said the rum racers would gather informally in fairgrounds across the south.

“They’d go to places like Atlanta,” he said. “There was this Labor Day race every year there. One year, there were 15 people scheduled to race, and five of them were told by the cops they weren’t allowed to race because of outstanding warrants for their arrest. There were a lot of people there, and the cops were scared they were going to riot, so they let them race.”

With the amount of fanfare, the sport eventually became what is known today as NASCAR.

“In 1947, this one fellow came up with this idea of putting everything together and that’s the same year the first race was held in Martinsville,” Provost said. “That was actually a year before NASCAR was formed.”

“Highways of the South” is the third installment of Provost’s “America’s Historic Highways” series. The book can be purchased on Amazon for \$19.95.



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